



## **Families in Telford Annual Report 2022**

### **Chair's report**

Over the last twelve months Reaching Communities funding has allowed FIT to re-establish ourselves as a primary care partner providing early years support in two of the most disadvantaged areas in Telford. Numbers attending our groups are growing steadily although still slightly below our original targets. The needs of those attending our groups has changed – in part due to post COVID nervousness and anxiety, in part due to new economic stresses and in part due to changes to the personal concerns and challenges faced by those who come to our groups.

We have responded by increasing staff time to allow them to consider more fully issues after groups have finished and by providing office space where they can work in a quiet environment. We have also adjusted group content to help those with neuro-divergent children.

Our Rise and Shine groups have started (using other funding sources) and we are already seeing the benefit with early identification of critical personal issues and suitable interventions and support from our staff.

Our feedback process has improved the data we are now obtaining to measure our impacts – steadily increasing scores over the first 6 months of attendance at our groups. One mother commented

We also have better insight into issues members face that has improved our activity planning and made it more targeted.

Issues of storage and venue quality are being resolved and hopefully will be complete by the end of 2023.

Overall, we spent slightly less than our original budget proposal – partly due to lower staff costs and fewer workshop needs as we focused on settling in new members as we re-established ourselves in the community. With increased staff hours and more workshops, we expect next year's spend to be on budget.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022 we celebrated 25 years since our original charities were founded and set up a memorial to our founding chair Pat Partridge and her husband and our secretary David in the local Community Orchard in Madeley. It was attended by over 50 people including Pat and David's children and grandchildren, current and past members and their families, trustees and staff.

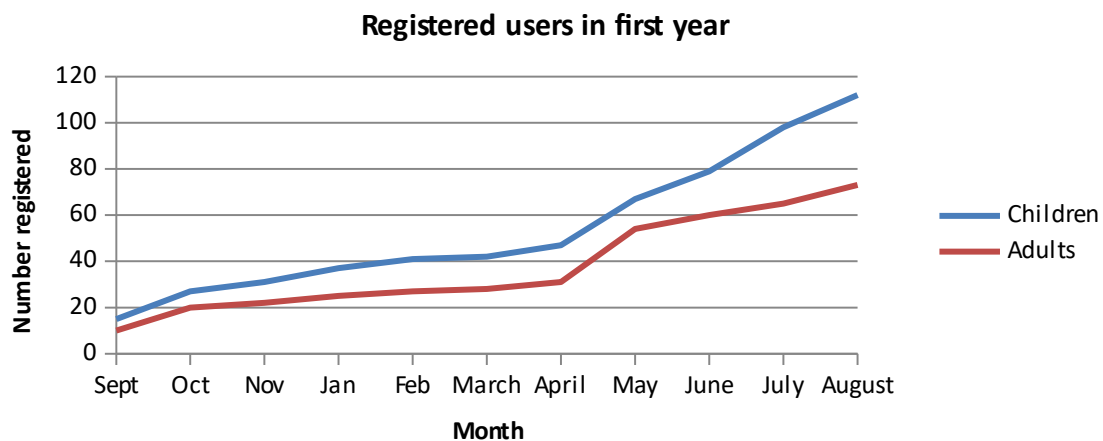
More details of FIT activities in 2021 - 2022 are included in the Manager's Report below.

### **Manager's report**

We have now had a year of funding from the lottery community fund and the project is in a position where things are feeling settled and stable. This funding has required that all staff increase the amount of data that is collected and additional reports are required but everyone is now getting well practiced at this.

### *Increasing our membership*

Our numbers of users continue to steadily increase and, with word of mouth, increased advertising and a reduction in Covid based anxiety, we believe these numbers will continue to grow.



### *Staffing*

In the last 12 months we have been through quite a few staff changes, but now have a very effective team. Our staffing now consists of two project managers who have a job share, a project facilitator, a play focus worker, a supervisor and two bank staff.

Staff have undergone a huge range of training in the last twelve months including in coercive control, domestic abuse, violence against women, respect toolkit, early years development, advanced safeguarding, adverse childhood experiences, neurodiversity, paediatric first aid, safer sleep and breastfeeding support.

Staff have been working incredibly hard to strengthen our community links and we now work closely with the local church, PCSO's, Telford crisis support, the baby bank, the breast-feeding network, maternity voices partnership and our councillors.

### *Activities we provide*

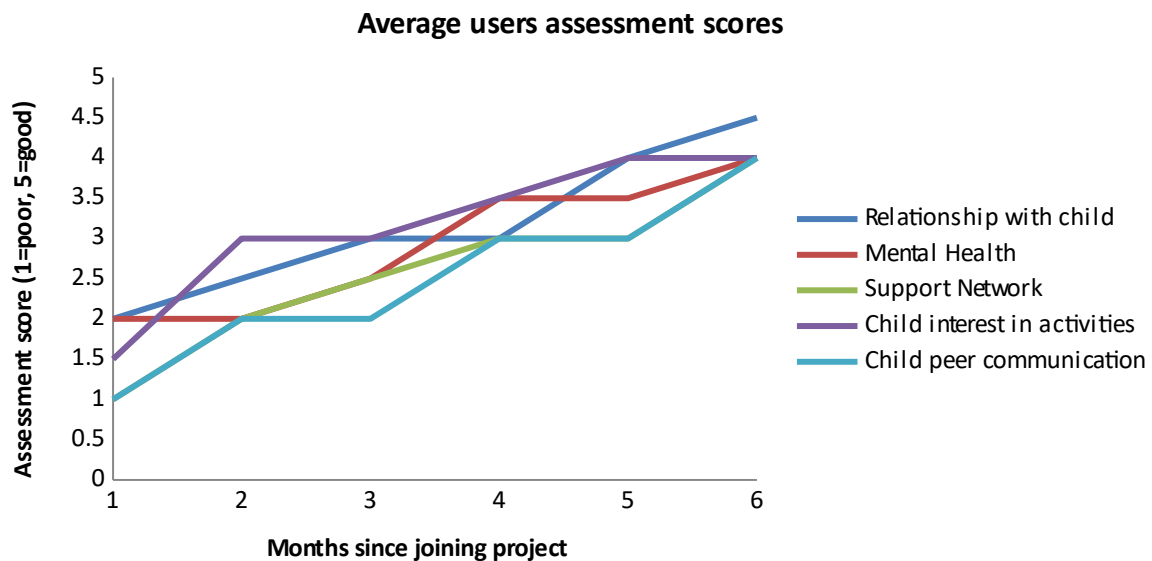
The activities provided at each session are noticeably different than they were before our restart and we have had a lot of positive feedback about this. We have had numerous parents tell us that just one of the ways in which we are different to any other group is that we don't just put a load of toys, we have proper planned activities for everyone to join in with.

Our summer programme was a huge success with high numbers of attendees including those who have moved on to primary school but returned to join us in the holidays. We offered lots of different activities and had excellent feedback on what was provided for our families over a five-week programme and at a very minimal cost to them.

### *Measuring our performance*

There has been a marked improvement in the engagement of members within the project and in the wider community. We are able to see this improvement based on assessment of service users when they join the project and then again, a term later. Within 4 months of joining, staff are seeing changes in children and adults in the way they present at group and in how adults report things are spreading outside of group such as at home, school and work.

Our quantitative analysis of members (scale of 1-5) within 4-5 months of joining is showing at least a one point improvement in both adults and children in areas such as social engagement, general wellbeing and personal reports relating to mental health.



#### *Improving our venues*

The project is now renting an office space in Sutton Hill which is of huge benefit to the staff. Having a specific place to work together for planning, evaluating and report writing has been incredibly helpful, and it ensured there is a private space for dealing with the more sensitive aspects of our work.

The project has had on going issues this year at both venues with storage facilities and outdoor space. We feel that our storage issues have improved from the start of the year but we continue to try and work with the venues to ensure there is always access to a safe outdoor area for our members and that staff can access equipment without risk.

#### *Diversity and Equality report:*

In the last 12 months since re-starting our groups, we have successfully implemented our equal opportunities and diversity policy.

Our client group has a range of ages, genders, races, disabilities, religions, sexualities, marital status and socio-economic backgrounds. Some of these are confirmed in the data we collect with our new starters, other information about diversity is from conversations with our members.

As well as initial introductory training, all project staff have annual in-house equality and diversity training, and a project manager has regular external training with a recognised body.

As a project we offer a fair and inclusive environment for our staff, our committee and for all of our families and members.

#### *Financial report*

Our audited Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 show the income greatly improved since 2021 mainly due to funding being provided from Reaching Communities which finances our core activities. In addition, Trusthouse grants and other funding allowed us to

establish to new Rise and Shine groups for young but more mobile children. We will need to continue raising funds for these groups if they are to continue.

We have spent less than we originally budgeted for the first year of Reaching Communities funding. Staff costs are slightly lower than anticipated and our attendance numbers were lower than anticipated but have steadily increased. Due to the break in activities enforced during Covid many of our families are new to the project and are still developing the confidence to want to attend workshops which were budgeted for, including for creches to support their attendance. A further consequence of the increased complexity of users' needs and increased documentation to support and safeguard our users is the need to have an office. This has now been achieved but will mean an additional cost of £150 a month. This rent may be reviewed after 3 months by the landlord.

FAMILIES IN TELFORD  
Registered Charity Number 1130708

56 Hollybush Road, Woodside,

Telford TF7 5HS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2022

Together with

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2022

## **Report to the Trustees of Families In Telford**

**On accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the examination below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

Have not been met: Or

- 2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Date:**

13/1/23

**Mr Paul Clifford, B.COM FCA**  
**Accounts Examiner,**  
**The Manse,**  
**Madeley Road,**  
**Ironbridge TF8 7QZ**

## Receipts and Payments FIT account year ended 31.8.22

Unrestricted Grants or Donations	Restricted
Reaching Communities, National Lottery	Veolia Grant
Groundworks UK- Comic Relief	Memorygiving
LocalGiving Ltd +Community lott.+AmazonSmile+PayP	Trusthouse
Gatherwell TwinCL (Community Lottery donations)	Co-op Community Grant

## Receipts year ended 31.8.21

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

#### Receipts year ended 31.8. 2022

Reaching Communities, National Lottery	£	33,786.00	0
Localgiving On Line Platform Donations and Gift Aid P	£	2,354.71	2015.48
Charitable donation to cover Early Years Alliance merr		0	281.21
Groundwork UK -Comic Relief Grant		2000	2000
Gatherwell TwinCL (Community Lottery donations)	£	103.00	183.5
Co-op Grant (2021-2022 grant restricted)		0	2,422.77
Stripe Payments UK - donation via FIT website		0	76.17
Amazon Europe Core (from on-line Amazon SMILE pur		73.65	61.97
PayPal Giving Fund		18.75	20
Localgiving - Magic Little Grant		500	500
HMRC - Furlough Repayments (HMRC gift aid in 2018-		0	4667.49
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>38,836.11</b>	<b>12228.59</b>

#### Payments year ended 31.8. 2022

#### Payments year ended 31.8. 2021

##### Management and administration

Salaries+HMRC liabilities	23259.13	8138.68
Payroll services from Telford & Wrekin CVS	480	240
Payroll services from Madeley Town Council	0	96
Staff DBS costs	296.6	0

##### Support Costs

Room Hire- Woodside, Park Lane Centre, Woodside	1826.5	355
Room Hire- The Hub on the Hill, Sutton Hill	1745	461.25
Room Hire- Sutton Hill Church	0	75
Pre-School Learning Alliance -membership+insurance	0	281.21
Wix.com (annual website fee +Domain purchase fee 2	0	126.84
Toys,Office and equipment/storage costs	1716.5	0
Coach for summer activity	510	0
Summer activity + equipment/materials costs	92	0
Other activities	100	0

Total Payments		30025.73	9773.98
Net Surplus on unrestricted funds	£	8,810.38	2454.61

#### RESTRICTED FUNDS

##### Receipts year ended 31.8. 2022

Veolia Grant for group resumption including PPE		0	1000
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation - grant		2000	0
Co-op Grant	£	1,375.91	0
Pat's Memorial Fund	£	674.05	0
Total Receipts		4049.96	1000

##### Payments year ended 31.8. 2022

PPE and Equipment for group resumption			557.71
Salaries+HMRC Liabilities	£	1,610.99	
Room Hire		520	
Pre-School Learning Alliance -membership+insurance		284.79	0
Staff Training		147	0
Office Equipment		192	0
Total Payments	£	2,754.78	557.71
Net Surplus on restricted funds	£	1,295.18	442.29

Total Net Surplus	£	10,105.56	2896.9
Balance brought forward		8471.76	5574.86
Balance carried forward	£	18,577.32	8471.76
Petty Cash Balance		90	90
Total Balance carried forward	£	18,667.32	8561.76

##### Funds carried Forward 31/8/22

Unrestricted funds		16839.15	8028.77
Restricted funds			
Co-op Community grant		752.12 -	
Trusthouse Charitable foundation		312 -	
Pat's memorial fund		674.05 -	
Veolia		0	442.99
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R. B.

J. Johns



P.R. CHIFFORD B.COM, FCA

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Families in Telford

P. JOHNS

- Chair

J. Warborton. Secretary.



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